

# THE COST OF MEDICATION ERRORS IN CHEMOTHERAPY

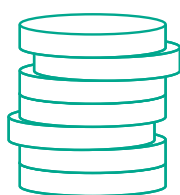


## Medication errors in general



44,000 – 98,000

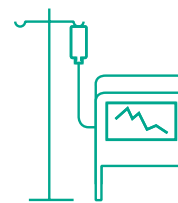
deaths among Americans  
each year<sup>1</sup>



\$17 – \$29 billion

total national costs in America<sup>1</sup>

## Adverse drug event due to medication errors



4.6 days

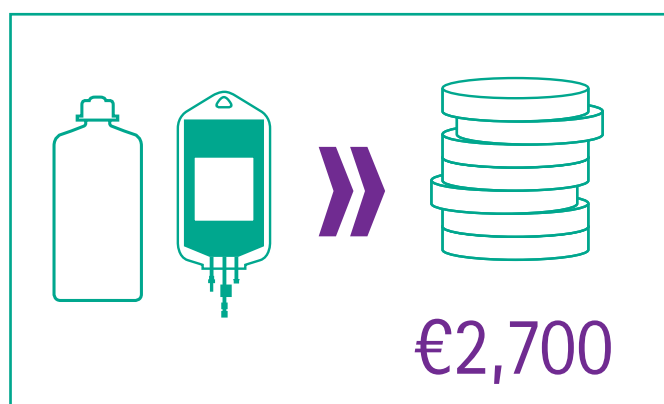
increase in patient's  
length of stay (LOS)



\$4,685

in costs to the  
health care system  
per event<sup>2</sup>

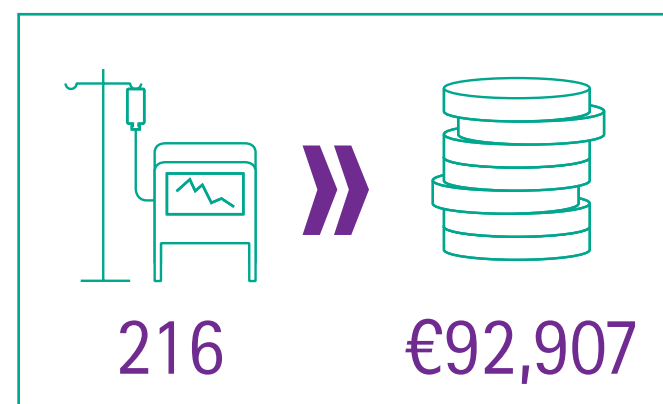
## Medication errors in chemotherapy



**Overdosing** increases the risk of neutropenic complications, which account for a minimum of €2,700 additional costs per treatment.<sup>3</sup>



**Complications** associated with mean hospitalization costs of \$18,042 per patient.<sup>4</sup>



Consequences of intercepted medication errors

- **216 additional hospitalization days per year**
- **Annual costs of €92,907:**  
€23,658 for additional drugs,  
€69,248 for hospital stays.<sup>5</sup>

Sources:  
1 Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Quality of Health Care in America; Kohn LT, Corrigan JM, Donaldson MS, editors, To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System, Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2000.  
2 Schulmeister L, Oncologist 2006; 11: 463-648.  
3 Theophanous-Kitiri S, Clin Pharm Intervent Oncol 2012; 3-4: 8-12.  
4 Shahriari M et al, J Bacetriol mycol Open Access 2017.  
5 Weiss B D et al, J Oncol Pract 2017; 13: e329-e336.